Claims

1. A method of conducting a network-based interview comprising:

creating at least one online questionnaire residing on a web site wherein access to said

5   web site is protected by at least an interviewee specific password;

providing automated email tools for creating email templates and generating an

automated email campaign and sending at least one of an introductory email, a first and a second

reminder email, and a late notice email;

providing management tools for managing and tracking the progress of the completion of

10   said questionnaire by each interviewee;

providing data management tools for determining and documenting response data

collected from said online questionnaires; and

providing reporting tools for generating reports based on the data collected from said

online questionnaires.

15   2. An apparatus for conducting an online interview campaign comprising:

a web server capable of generating web pages and allowing at least one administrator and

at least one user to connect to an application server over a global network;

an application server hosting a business logic capable of generating online questionnaires

residing on web sites hosted by said web server, and providing tools allowing said administrator

20   to organize and manipulate data generated from said user's responses to said online

questionnaires whereby said data generated from said user's responses are used in determining and documenting tax data;

a database for storing said tax data generated from said online questionnaires.

4. A network-based method for determining and documenting tax data comprising:

5   creating at least one online questionnaire residing on a web site and wherein access to said web site is protected by at least an interviewee specific password;

providing management tools to an administrator managing said online questionnaire process wherein said management tools includes at least one of

providing a tracking tool allowing the administrator to track the progress of the

10   completion of said questionnaire by each interviewee,

providing an email management tool allowing the administrator to generate an email campaign related to the online questionnaire, and

providing a report generation tool allowing the administrator to generate tracking reports; and

15   providing data organization tools allowing the administrator to document and determine tax data based on the response data collected from interviewee questionnaire .

5. A computerized network-based method comprising:

obtaining tax data using at least one online questionnaire residing on a password protected web site;

20   providing administration tools for organizing and documenting said tax data;

providing report generating tools; and

using said report generating tool and said tax data to generate reports used in documenting and determining tax credit.

6. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 wherein said tax data is R&D

5   tax credit data.

7. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

establishing contest criteria for potential interviewees; and

awarding contest awards to one or more potential interviewees based upon their performance relative to said contest criteria.

10   8. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

providing a tool to an administrator for setting up interviews each year; and

storing historical data by year for each year.

9. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

providing an employee and department management tool to an administrator whereby

15   said tool allows the administrator to decide which department and which employee will be interviewed.

10. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

providing a tool to an administrator to perform at least one of add, delete and change employees and   departments.

10. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 w further comprising:

    providing a tool to pre-populated data in said questionnaires general information section.

11. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

    providing a tool to insert password information for secured access to site by users.

5   12. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

    providing a tool to insert email address for automatic email.

13. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

    providing a tool to an administrator to view a questionnaire while its being completed by those being interviewed.

10 14. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

    providing a tool to an administrator to edit a questionnaire.

15. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

    providing a tool to an administrator for viewing employees in a department in groups.

16. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

15   providing a tool to automate an email system whereby the administrator may setup said

    system to automatically send at least one of: introduction email, a first reminder notice, a

    second reminder notice, and a late notice.

17. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

providing a report application tool to an administrator, whereby the administrator may generate a tracking report of the completion of questionnaires; and

providing a matrix reporting tool to an administrator, whereby the interviewee may access the results of his responses to said questionnaire and correct for any errors.

5   18. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

providing a security tool to an administrator wherein access to the web site is by using at least one of limiting access using IP addresses and limiting access by assigning interviewee specific passwords.

19. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

10   providing a tool to enable the administrator to view who has access to their site.

20. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 5 further comprising:

providing interviewees help options by providing at least one of:

instructions, history, prizes, definitions, FAQ, samples and help.

21. A computerized network-based method as recited in claim 20 further comprising:

15   providing said interviewees a tool to attach supporting documents with their responses to said questionnaire.